

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

French and English View of War

FRANCE and England, naturally enough, are beginning to take very different views of the great war now in progress. Lord Kitchener may be content that it is likely to be prolonged for three years, but it is of the utmost importance to the French nation that the issue be settled at the earliest possible moment consistent with a settlement that is final and conclusive.

England has not felt the foot of the invader, and, despite all the talk at Berlin, the occasional aeroplane and cruiser raids on the English coast and the uneasiness of a large section of her population, is not likely to be invaded unless there is an enormous change in the situation—a change that would involve the practical destruction of the British fleet. France, on the other hand, sees a considerable portion of her territory in hostile hands. War is being fought over her fields and vineyards. Her cities and villages are being destroyed, the stately monuments of her civilization leveled by shot and shell. She wants to have the thing over and done with.

It makes a difference whose ox is gored.

Villa's Greatest Conquest

ONE of the remarkable aspects of the situation in Mexico is the change in the public estimate of Francisco Villa. A year ago he was thought of, in his own country and in this, as a bloodthirsty bandit who had revealed a remarkable military talent, but who was still a bandit just the same.

That view has been altered by the conduct of the man himself. He has converted, most remarkable of all, the Americans resident in Mexico, who had been his sternest and most relentless critics. One of them, writing to the New York Sun, under date of December 5, says that Villa has "become one of the big men of the world, in the sense that he is sure of himself and understands his destiny." And this correspondent goes on:

Practically everything north of Puebla is for Villa, and public opinion, which has been in his favor for a long time, is beginning to crystallize actively for him. I hope he will have Tampico very shortly, so that the smelting industry can get a start, and then the miners will look for % chance to get busy. The Times at Ziguahapan have not been molested, and those in charge of them who left could have remained there with perfect safety.

In a way, this conquest of public opinion is a more remarkable achievement than any feat of arms accomplished by Villa in the field.

Schooling the Housemaids

MONTCLAIR is one of the gems that stand the mosquito-stung crown of New Jersey. It is famous for many things, all of which escape our memory at the moment, but it will doubtless go down the corridors of time resplendent as the first centre of culture on this continent to look upon the maid-servant and determine that culture shall be brought to her. All sorts of culture—parlor and hall, pantry and kitchen and dining-room, upstairs and downstairs, cooking and scrubbing, dusting and polishing—they are to be made very Admireable Crichtons of maid-servants.

This miracle is to be wrought through the medium of Montclair's equivalent for the old red schoolhouse, which is held in such tender recollections by so many persons who have never seen one. The instructors are to be the professors of that branch of occult science classified as "domestic." The curriculum calls for twenty lessons, for which the charge, considering the benefits to be conferred, will be trifling—a few paltry jitneys per lesson.

It is an extensive undertaking, not to mention a large order, to transform the average incompetent maid-servant into an efficient household assistant. Perhaps it can be done—in Montclair—in twenty lessons, at a few kopecks a lesson. In England, where it is said the good servants come from, they claim that it takes about as long to make a competent servant as it does to make a gentleman, which is three generations, and in some stubborn cases a few more.

But Montclair has our best wishes for success in its adventures educational enterprise. Unpleasant outsiders will not be wanting to assert that able handmaidens are not the only essential to a properly conducted household. They will even have the audacity to declare that as large a proportion of "Missuses" need training in their duty as "girls" do in theirs. Nor will they refrain from alleging that many a maid-servant has better manners than those they serve. In short, these detestable characters would have it that the lady of the house needs to go to school quite as much as those whom she employs.

Well, that may be true—in Przemysl, let

us say. But in Montclair—perish the thought.

Richmond in the Lighting Field

WHETHER Richmond should embark in the business of furnishing electric light and power to individual consumers, as has been suggested and urged, is a matter of too much importance to be decided lightly or without the most rigid and complete investigation of its every aspect. It certainly cannot be said that the advantages of municipal ownership of public utilities have been so completely verified by experience in this country that we should be willing to extend its operation here in Richmond until we know just where we stand, and where we are likely to come out.

One essential in the present case is a scientific and accurate determination, by a qualified electrical engineer, of just what it costs Richmond to provide lights for municipal purposes. It is obvious that true cost is not determined by a consideration of mere disbursements, but must include such factors as plant investment, interest thereon, depreciation and replacement, which usually receive scant or inadequate attention in the reports of public officials.

A case in point is that of the Post-Office Department, which for two years now, according to the reports of the Postmaster-General, has been a paying proposition. What he means by that is that there was an excess of receipts over disbursements in the actual conduct of postal affairs. No attention whatever was paid to the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in plant—in buildings, automobiles, horses and wagons, furniture and the like, most of which are perishable, and must be replaced in course of time.

These items cannot be so disregarded in determining the cost of public utilities. If the end sought is accuracy and truth, Richmond uses a valuable water power in manufacturing electricity with which to light the streets. That water power is a municipal asset, and if utilized for municipal purposes should be expected to pay interest on the value it represents.

Perhaps it does pay, although there is a considerable public dissent from that view. At any rate, before Richmond goes more extensively into the electric lighting business, this and all other elements in the equation should be subjected to the careful scrutiny of some one capable of rendering an intelligent and impartial professional opinion.

The German Menace to Shipping

KARL H. VON WIEGAND, a correspondent, who evidently is in the confidence of the German staff to a remarkable degree, has sent over an interview with Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, Minister of Marine, containing a most remarkable statement. This is that the largest of the German submarines have been out as long as fourteen days at a time, and have sailed all around the British Isles. The world knows some of the things these under-water battlers have done, but has heretofore learned little of the maximum cruising radius; and the admiral's threat that Germany may decide to begin submarine war against all merchant marine, with the object of cutting off England's food supply, is not at all pleasant to contemplate.

Significant, especially as it was examined and passed by the general staff before publication, is the interview in its forecast of Germany's naval policy. Of the admiral's statement that England's domination of the sea was founded on piracy and must fall, there will be conflicting views, all of the layman variety, for the most expert navigator is beginning with the A B C of his profession as applied to war, in this gigantic struggle. But when the admiral declares that Germany may, and probably will, undertake the utter destruction of the merchant marine, he says something which should strike with dread the intelligence of all civilization.

That Germany, in attacking the English coast recently, intended to spread terror throughout Britain is generally believed. That the submarine raids had principally the same object may be believed as well. One way to attack the enemy is first to weaken his arms by terrifying. And Admiral von Tirpitz's statement as to Germany's extreme intentions toward the merchant marine may be with the same purpose. It will be remembered that the German ambassador to this country recently talked wildly of Germany's right to attack the Canadian coast, and that his talk was attributed by many to a desire to frighten the people of the United States by a covert threat, at a time when anti-German sentiment was running high. All these things have their psychological effect, to a greater or less degree, according to the temperament of those against whom they are directed.

Precisely what the German admiral hints at so darkly was told in fiction form only a few weeks ago, by Sir A. Conan Doyle, who pictured the German submarine fleet actually destroying England's merchant ships and winning the war by a process of starvation. It may be—who knows?—that the German admiral read the story and accepted the suggestion as at least a good press agent idea. Or it may be that Doyle, with the acute sensing of Sherlock Holmes, snatched the admiral's secret thoughts from the air and turned them into copy.

Soldiers in the trenches probably hung up haversacks instead of hosiery. Stockings are too scarce and valuable to risk when Old Nick rather than Saint Nick is likely to pass that way.

Congressmen probably are spending Christmas thinking of the presents they are likely to get from their constituents for their votes for or against the national prohibition amendment.

The Austrians are trying to raise the siege on Przemysl, and now will be resumed that wrangle as to how it's pronounced.

Government is out with a warning against a counterfeit \$10 note just circulating. But almost any kind of a note would be welcome.

Does any one seriously believe that either side of the big conflict really expects to utterly crush the other side?

The one who got the penny calendar hesitated a long time between calling the sender a Spug or cheap skate.

We acquire a taste for war just as we acquire a taste for olives, both being, at first, very bitter.

A Newark baby swallowed a dime, and her father spent \$5 on a doctor to get it back. Net loss, \$4.90.

SONGS AND SAWS

Don't Worry About It.

Some highbrow's views on love and lore, Or how to free a land enslaved,
Or lift the burden of the poor,
Perhaps you strive, but quite in vain,
To grasp his plan for raising hell—
But don't let that cause you much pain;
He doesn't understand himself.

The Postmistress Says:

Well, we've had a white Christmas, all right,
And when the thaw comes we probably will have
a yellow or black New Year, according to the
local constitution of the mud.

Helping Cold.

Office Cold feet—These improvements certainly are great. If the motormen would stop ringing their bells and automobiles feel a little more like a horse, a few more might have a chance to get a little comfortable rest. At the worst, however, I cannot see them.

Desperate.

Ho—Cholly Litebrane is horribly despondent these days. He has been disappointed in love, and says he is going to end it all.
She—What is he thinking of doing?
Ho—I've never understood his exact plan, but I gather he intends to smoke four really strong cigarettes in quick succession and then slap himself on the wrist.

The Silver Lining.

Stubbs—There's one blessing, anyhow, in connection with this Belgian situation.
Grubbs—I'll be the goat. What's the answer?
Stubbs—We haven't yet had to listen to a lot of Belgians imported from the Boverly murder some alleged musical instruments for the benefit of the stricken fatherland.

They Missed It.

Those ancients were a lucky bunch,
Ho, far above our scorching—
They never had their water pipes
Burst on a Sunday morning.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Editor Goodman, of the West Point News, wants it understood that he is a patient man, but that there are times in the life of a country editor when patience ceases to be a virtue. Hence he announces that there are too many subscribers on the "deucedly dilatory" list, and to these extends an invitation to come across with what they owe the editor. He sets forth that there are few first-class country weeklies, and he wants it clearly understood that he is running one of the few. He concludes his argument for the plaintiff thus: "We don't want your money to keep. We want it to spend. If we had half of the sum due us, we would buy new machinery, and start a new feature, adding to the value and attractiveness of the paper to you." There's no getting around an argument like that.

Editor Pendleton comments in his Marlon State to: "Murderous peace continues to grow in Mexico. Betancourt, Carranza, Villa and Gutierrez are reported to have killed 140 prominent men of their country within the past month. The murderers call their victims political offenders." The term "political offender" in Mexico applies to all possible candidates for the presidency of the republic and aspiring liberators.

Says the Covington Virginian: "Editor George Greene, of the Clifton Forge Review, announces the celebration of his birthday last Saturday, but he doesn't give his age. As a man is said to be no older than he feels, we imagine Brother Greene, whose good nature has a State-wide reputation, must still be right smart of a kitten." The inference is that George isn't so verdant as he looks—or as his name sounds.

Ezra Pike, who is on a hike from the Cracker State to Washington, stopped over in Annerth long enough to explain to Editor Harding Sanders that his mission is to protect the people of Wilson with a bale of cotton. The Annerth News prints a picture of Ezra, whose appearance would be much improved if he converted his cotton bale into a few shirts.

Editor Lindsay, of the Charlottesville Progress, thinks Dr. Butler, of Columbia University, should be promoted to the Roosevelt class, making the student body of the class two, and thus doubling the regular attendance. The Progress: "Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, has aroused indignation well expressed by the Baltimore Sun, by a statement made in a recent speech, in which he characterized the present administration as 'a political barbarism tempered by rhetoric.'" Verily, the eternal fitness of things was disregarded when the name of merry old St. Nick was borrowed to fasten on a misanthrope.

"It is reported that the clock-makers in Connecticut are working overtime. Maybe they are getting ready for a strike," says the Bristol Herald-Courier. Which looks like setting the alarm when there is no occasion to get up early. There is not even reason to think the hands are crossed.

Current Editorial Comment

An army on the march along dry roads actually throws up very heavy dust clouds. To those who haven't been trained, one dust cloud looks very much like another, but to a soldier these dust clouds tell a very clear story. The dust thrown up by infantry, for example, hangs in a low, thick cloud. The longer the cloud, the more the men underneath it, and a scout can, by this means, make a fairly accurate guess of the number of men on the march. Cavalry on the march sends up a dust cloud that is much higher and thinner than that of infantry. The most distinctive of these dust clouds, however, are those of the tanks and heavy guns. The dust rises in little groups of clouds, quite different from the long clouds of cavalry and infantry. So, even when unable to see the actual cause of the dust, a scout can tell many miles away what kind of force is passing along a road.—London Answers.

Water and soil pollution is one of the decidedly prolific sources of contagion. Every part of this country, Federal and State health agencies and medical associations have directed a systematic campaign of education, and glory have gone out of battle, headway has been made, but much work has yet to be done. It is probable that soil pollution in the South alone has cost this section hundreds of thousands of lives indirectly, and millions of dollars in lowered production from the hookworm. For soil pollution is the one source of hookworm, and hookworm runs tuberculosis a close second as a decimator. It, indeed, it does not rank with it. The two cures are laws and education. Education, preferably, since people unconvinced by laws, but will give heed when their convictions speak. Here is a field for fruitful endeavor for all the health agencies in America.—Atlanta Constitution.

No war has tried men's souls more than the great struggle in Europe, for the excitement and glory have gone out of battle, and war has become a soul-shaking duty to endure an almost constant hell of shrapnel and machine gun fire in unsanitary trenches, with occasional even more deadly exposure to the volleys and export marksmanship, men fighting in this scientific and terrible way without seeing.

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except rarely, the faces of the enemy, and always being in ignorance of the issue of the day's fighting along the "far-flung" battle line. Sieges in the open have taken the place of encounters that could be decided in a day, or two days at the most, and the casualties in their volume are stupefying. Yet the terrible ordeal does not shake the soul of the soldier. The "red badge of courage" is as conspicuous as ever.—New York Sun.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 28, 1864.)

Savannah has been evacuated by the Confederate forces, and Sherman has possession of the empty city. No prisoners were taken by Sherman, and all of the Confederate stores and ammunition were saved. So, too, was all movable artillery. The heavy guns on the permanent fortifications were, of course, lost, but were probably rendered unserviceable.

The Confederate lines below Richmond were disturbed yesterday by a prodigious uproar. There was firing of cannon, beating of drums, shouting, hurrahs, etc. It was supposed that the enemy was making an attack, and the Confederates got ready for it. As it turned out, it was merely a Yankee celebration of the fall of Savannah.

The telegraph lines to Southwest Virginia have been partially restored to working order, and by them we learn that the enemy did get into Saltville, but before they could accomplish the real object of their visit, that is, destroy the salt works, General Breckenridge fell upon them and drove them out.

General Vaughan attacked the raiding party at the lead mines and defeated them before they could destroy the furnaces.

The War Department has information that at Savannah the last of the troops of the Confederate line crossed the city at 3 A. M. on Tuesday, the 21st. The engineer corps held the bridge until 6 o'clock the same morning and then burned it. The enemy then advanced, and the Mayor surrendered the city.

From Wilmington comes the news that the enemy's fleet of over fifty vessels, including two monitors, several armed vessels and many heavily armed frigates and sloops of war, made a furious attack on Port Fisher about 1 o'clock yesterday and kept up a heavy fire until night. Colonel William Lamb, who is in command of the fort, replied vigorously and repulsed each assault. The attack will doubtless be renewed today.

From private sources it is learned that Colonel Mosby was wounded in the raid through Madison County. One report says he was shot in the abdomen and severely, if not dangerously, wounded. The reports lack confirmation.

While the people of the whole land will feel sorry for the people of Savannah, it is source of relief that the Confederates have not lost an army in that man trap. The army which held Savannah is now free to oppose Sherman's proposed march northward.

The Voice of the People

A Virginian in Rome on the War.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—A wealthy client of J. Thompson Brown & Co., a native Virginian, but a long resident of the Eternal City for many years, and in close contact with the foreign diplomats and the Vatican, in a letter to that firm, under date of November 28th, just received, writes:

"The war at present shows no signs of drawing to a close, but the diplomats tell me it is too violent to continue long, and that it will be soon put by its own force."

A consummation devoutly to be hoped for, and, coming from such a source, may be significant of the opinion of those nearer the struggle. It occurred to me as worthy of mention.

LEROY E. BROWN.

Richmond, December 26, 1914.

Hawks and Destruction of Poultry.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—Feed the birds where the hawks cannot see them. Under banks of brooks and pine brush are the best places—or you will just be baiting them for hawks. Hawks have destroyed 25 cents' worth of poultry for every individual in my family, besides countless missing chicks. If this is a fair average, the hawks are costing Amelia County alone over \$2500 a year in poultry.

They won't let quail feed in the snow, so, being empty, they freeze by the whole covey on cold nights. To destroy quail, just let the birds have a peculiar scream when attacked by them, which, once heard, is not forgotten. We will never have game in the open until we get a general State bounty law, and the farmers should see to it that any future gun tax is applied to the destruction of these pests, instead of being given to game commissioners to tell farmers when they can hunt on their land.

CRAIG EGGLESTON.

Amelia Courthouse, Va., December 26, 1914.

Queries and Answers

Splinthariscopes.

Please tell me what a splinthariscopes is. I do not find the word in my dictionary.

MRS. E. L. C.

All the larger books of recent date give it. It is made of "splintharis," a spark, and "scope," from the verb, to see, and is a contrivance to exhibit the activity of radium. It consists of a particle of radium mounted in front of fluorescent screen and covered with a thin layer of glass, which shows flashes produced by the bombardment of the screen by the radium rays.

Riverside Drive.

Can you tell me whether the route of the new Riverside Drive has yet been announced?

E. R. BROWN.

The laying out of this drive is in the hands of Colonel C. P. E. Burghwin, who has not yet made his plans public.

Can you tell me to whom to apply for appointment in the Red Cross as a nurse in the European war?

MRS. R. L. N.
Charles L. Magee, Room 34, War Department, Washington, D. C., but the general impression is that no more nurses are desired at present.

Can you tell me why the name "Conestoga" is applied to a horse of little value?

E. R. WALKER.

It is not, except locally and by misapprehension. Conestoga was the name of a tribe of Indians, who met Smith in 1608, and were decidedly above the average physically. They were diminished by wars till their extinction by massacre in 1763. The name was given to a Pennsylvania village in Lancaster County, and in that neighborhood the latter part of the eighteenth century was first bred the heavy draft horse from a cross of the Flemish cart horse and the native breed. Also in the village were made the heavy road wagons, which, with the freighting of the region, these wagons were called "Conestoga wagons," and the horses, "Conestogas," and the only possible trace of depreciation which the term could indicate would be suggested by the average weakness and heaviness of movement as applied to a horse.

The Bright Side of Life

More or Less Important.

"Can I get off to-day, boss?"
"What for?"
"A wedding!"
"Do you have to go?"
"I'd like to, sir—I'm the bridegroom."—Cornell Widow.

Household Cares.

"Why is it that you can never stay anywhere very long?"
"I have to go home and empty the drip pan under the refrigerator."—Providence Tribune.

"That old fellow over there got his wife through advertising."
"What for a wife?"
"No, advertising money to loan."—Boston Transcript.

"WHO SAID RATS?"

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the New York Evening Sun.

URGES CIVILIAN NAVY YARD HEADS

Calling attention to the growing needs for battleship construction in the government navy-yards in view of the demand for a stronger national defense, George F. Stowers, chief clerk of the Inspection department at the Boston Navy-Yard, discusses the subject of navy-yard management in the current issue of the Journal of the Efficiency Society. Mr. Stowers advocates the appointment of civilian general managers for the navy-yards as a means of increasing industrial efficiency and economy, as well as the military efficiency of the navy.

Analyzing the present system of navy-yard management, which was established under Secretary George von Meyer and so far has been continued by Secretary Josephus Daniels, Mr. Stowers has decided that a hurtful lack of continuity of policy and co-operation in the work of the various shop departments exist under the present supervision of the commandants of the yards. They should be relieved of industrial supervision, he said, and devote their time to military supervision alone. In part he said:

"With the appointment of a civilian general manager, navy-yard officers, including the commandant and his aids, as well as those assigned to duty in the industrial department, relieved of the details of industrial management, could give first attention to matters of ship design, character of alterations and repairs contemplated, and serve as members of military boards, presiding by the naval regulations, etc. This would also have a better opportunity to acquire a knowledge of modern shop practice and management that would enable them better to care for and operate the finished product about the ship, for they could observe the methods of one who has made shop management his life-study and profession. Such knowledge could not be held to enhance the seagoing efficiency of the officers. Under the supervision of a general manager better workmanship would go into the general product, be it machinery, articles, repairs or new ships.

"The logical conclusion is, then, that the appointment of a civilian general manager would materially promote the military efficiency of the fleet.

To many naval officers assignment to navy-yard industrial duty is distasteful; they feel misplaced, take little or no interest in the details of management and are generally indifferent as to methods and results. Naturally these officers attach but slight importance to the elements of co-operation and co-ordination. The issuance of military commands by the commandant in no way improves the situation. Continuity of policy in navy-yards is practically non-existent. The principal reason for this fact is that the commandant, the officers in charge of the manufacturing departments, are merely officers assigned to navy-yard duty—many in their respective capacities for but relatively short periods, often less than a year.

Present conditions necessarily foster shop inefficiencies. Officers do not have the personal co-operation and confidence of the civilian employee. Naval officers bring to their navy-yard work a military viewpoint, an attitude that repel rather than invite the confidence of the workmen. Their uniforms are but symbolical of this feeling of antagonism. Military control of navy-yard industrial activity has created and fostered a deep-seated feeling of discontent among the employees. They frequently have been made unpleasantly